

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD
PERMITTING THE KEEPING OF HONEYBEES

WHEREAS, the West Hartford Town Council has determined that the keeping of bees is beneficial and should be permitted in the Town of West Hartford;

WHEREAS, bees pollinate more than 30% of the food that humans consume, and in the United States of America bees pollinate up to \$15 billion worth of crops each year;

WHEREAS, Honey bees produce honey, wax, royal jelly, and propolis which is used to fight infections, bacteria, fungi and heal wounds;

WHEREAS, there is a need to regulate the keeping of bees for the safety of the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF WEST HARTFORD THAT the West Hartford Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by the addition to Chapter 177, entitled Zoning, thereto:

§177-12. Keeping of Honeybees

The keeping of one or more colonies of the common domestic honey bee, Apis Mellifera, shall be a permitted accessory use in those districts specified under § 177-6C, Item 28 of the Schedule, subject to the following:

A. Standards.

(1) The minimum lot size required for beekeeping shall be six-thousand (6,000) square feet.

(2) The maximum number of colonies shall be subject to the following limitations:

<u>Zoning District</u>	<u>Maximum # of Permitted Colonies Per Lot</u>
<u>R-6</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>R-10, R-13 and R-20</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>R-40</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>R-80</u>	<u>4</u>

(3) All colonies shall be located in rear yards and shall be located not less than twenty (20) feet from any property line.

(4) A flyway barrier of at least 6 feet in height must shield any part of a property line within 50 feet of a colony. The flyway barrier may consist of a wall, fence, dense vegetation or a combination there of, such that honey bees will fly over rather than through the material to reach the colony.

(5) An on-site source of fresh water shall be provide and shall be located closer to the hive than any water source on adjacent property.

B. Operation and Maintenance

- (1) Honey bee colonies shall be kept in hives with removable frames, which shall be kept in sound and usable condition.
- (2) Adequate space shall be maintained in the hive to prevent overcrowding and swarming.

C. Application Procedure

- (1) Subject to requirements set forth in §177-12 (A) and (B), no person shall keep honey bees within the Town of West Hartford without first obtaining a permit.
- (2) An application for the keeping of honey bees shall be made in writing to the Town Planner and shall include all information outlined in §177-41 and subject to a Zoning Permit fee as outlined in §177-50.
- (3) The Town Planner shall review applications for the keeping of honey bees and shall approve, disapprove or approve with modification such proposed application within 30 days after having received all of the information described in this section.
- (4) The Town Planner shall give notice of the application by sending, by certificate of mailing, a copy of the application to the owners of all adjoining property to the property which is the subject of the application.
- (5) The applicant shall post a sign giving notice of the application in a conspicuous place on the property for which the keeping of honey bees is sought, visible from a public street. Said sign shall be posted from the date an application is received by the Town Planner and shall remain in place until a decision on the application has been made.
- (6) Permits shall be renewed annually, at no cost, and may be revoked if the permit has not been renewed within one week of the expiration of the prior permit.
- (7) Failure to comply with any of these conditions may result in the revocation of the permit.

D. State Requirements

- (1) The applicant shall obtain all necessary permits prior to the installation of any colony and shall annually, on or before the first day of October, make application to the State Entomologist for the registration of bees. Following the issuance of the initial permit, no application for a permit or renewal of a permit to keep bees shall be considered until proof of registration with the State of Connecticut Entomologist is provided.